

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 08715 121417Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----059759 121418Z /44

P 121320Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5733  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8715

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, PINS, ZA, CG

SUBJECT: LUNDA REFUGEES REPORTEDLY EXECUTED

REF: A) KINSHASA 8394; B) LUSAKA 2610; C) STATE 207900

1. SUMMARY: CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI, LIKE OURSELVES, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM LUSAKA'S REPORT THAT SOME 400 LUNDA REFUGEES WERE EXECUTED ON THEIR RETURN TO SHABA IN JULY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI REPORTS THAT IT HAS PICKED UP PERIODIC AND OFTEN VERY EMOTIONAL STORIES ABOUT CONTINUING PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZAIRIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE LUNDA POPULATION IN WESTERN SHABA. IT HAS NOT, HOWEVER, COME ACROSS ANY SPECIFIC CONFIRMED INSTANCES OF EXECUTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL B. LUBUMBASHI NOTES THAT REPORTS FROM WESTERN SHABA REMAIN SKETCHY AND SUBJECT TO EXAGGERATION. TO THE BEST OF ITS KNOWLEDGE, NO MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WHICH FLED LARGER TOWNS HAVE RETURNED. RELATIONS BETWEEN VILLAGERS AND THE LOCAL MILITARY DEPEND PRIMARILY ON THE GOOD SENSE OF THE LOCAL ZAIRIAN MILITARY COMMANDER.

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3. AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY PILOT WHO HAS FLOWN GERMAN RELIEF FLIGHTS TO KAPANGA, SANDOA, KAFAKUMB, AND KASAJI VISITED CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI ABOUT THE 23RD OF AUGUST. WHILE HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AMONG THE FIRST TO REPEAT REPORTED MILITARY MISDEEDS, HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED INCIDENT.

4. SINCE REFTEL A WAS DISPATCHED, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION

WHICH COULD REFER TO THE SAME REPORTS PICKED UP BY LUSAKA. THE EMBASSY LEARNED VIA NICK ERJAVEC OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE THAT THE MONSEIGNEUR OF KOLWEZI TOLD FRERE MATA KIMBIDA, DIRECTOR OF CARITAS, THAT HE HAD HEARD OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS IN WHICH REFUGEES HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY AND THAT THE LUNDA TRIBESMEN WERE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS. THE MONSEIGNEUR WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO EITHER.

5. CONCLUSION: CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI'S EVALUATION IS THAT "WHILE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, WE WILL REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT SUCH EXECUTIONS UNTIL STRONGER CONFIRMATION IS AVAILABLE." EMBASSY SHARES THE CONSULATE'S VIEW.  
DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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